

SOLDIER, ATHLETE, FARMER

2 Tim 2:3-7

Metaphor: figure of speech in which one word or phrase is applied to another.
Kind of servant of Lord needs to be.

I. Soldier-- 2 Timothy 2:3

Endure hardness: undergo hardship, be afflicted; suffer trouble, take your licks..Implies suffering persecution.

Good: noble

Soldier: active duty.

Ironside: *The figure of a soldier suggests obedience to orders, rigid discipline, holding the body in subjection, and valor in defense of the truth.*

Matt Hen: *All Christians, but especially ministers are soldier of Jesus Christ...*

Ephesians 6:10-12; 1 Timothy 1:18; 1 Timothy 6:12; 2 Corinthians 10:4-5

Good soldier

1. Willing to suffer
2. Focused.

2 Timothy 2:4 *Affairs of this life.* Transactions, negotiations. Pursuits and occupations pertaining to civil life.

Stott: *He frees himself from civilian affairs, in order to give himself to soldiering and so satisfy his superior officers or be "wholly at his commanding officer's disposal.*

Entangleth: entwine, enweave, be involved in; to catch as in a net...escape difficult.

Good soldier not allow himself to get sidetracked

Stott: *So what is forbidden the good soldier of Jesus Christ is not all "secular" activities, but other "entanglements" which, though they may be perfectly innocent in themselves, may hinder him from fighting Christ's battles.*

Desire of soldier--please and earn approval of commanding officer.

Stay on track!

1 John 3:22; 1 Thess. 2:4

II. Athlete. 2 Timothy 2:5

Strive for masteries : (athleo—athlete) to engage in a conflict, to contend in the public games.

yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully.

Not receive prize unless obeyed rules and regulations

Athletic games—a very high interest

- ❖ Olympic games: athletics, poetry, music. Olympia--Olive Wreath
- ❖ Delphi games: Greece – wreath of Apple
- ❖ Isthmian games: Isthmus of Corinth – wreath of Pine
- ❖ Nemean games: Greek festival – wreath of Parsley

National and religious festivals.

Master of ceremonies announce each country

Winner receive fancy crown

Return home – breach in wall .

No longer pay taxes.

Salary from public treasury.

To compete: strict requirements/Rules:

1. Observe strict regimen
2. Live on unpleasant food
3. Abstain from delicacies
4. Exercise self at prescribed times
5. No wine
6. Put self under coach.

Paul compares Christian life to running a race. 1 Cor. 9:24-27; Heb. 12:1-2;

III. Farmer

2 Timothy 2:6 *Husbandman*: tiller of soil, farmer

Laboureth: grow weary, exhausted,

Hard-working farmer

Partaker: participate, accept, eat , have , use, receive

Stott:

- ✚ Life not like soldier, athlete – *totally devoid of glamour, excitement, peril, applause*
- ✚ Must be self-starter.

First to benefit from work...food and finances

Point to Timothy: *Timothy, you must benefit first from your ministry before others do – practice what preach!*

Gutke: *The person who is leading other people into spiritual life must himself first of all move into spiritual life.*

SO WHAT? Similarities

1. All willing to suffer inconvenience
2. All have goal
3. All have to submit to requirements

2 Timothy 2:7

Consider: ponder, consider, understand, think upon, grasp meaning of...

The Lord... Ja 1:5 If any lack wisdom

